

# Critical Pedagogy and Libraries

## A Primer

Case Studies in Critical Pedagogy  
METRO Reference & Instruction SIG  
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1. Critical Pedagogy
2. Critical Library Instruction
3. Critical Library Instruction in Practice

# Critical Pedagogy



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Centers a commitment to  
social justice

Requires dialogue and  
reflection

Identifies and addresses  
domination in its many forms



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# Critical Library Instruction

- Aims to understand how libraries participate in systems of oppression and find ways for librarians and students to act upon these systems
  - Applies critical theory and most often the ideas of critical pedagogy to libraries
  - More than just instruction; a way of thinking about our work as a whole, from libraries' educational activities to info lit frameworks to labor
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Critical information literacy “takes into consideration the social, political, economic, and corporate systems that have power and influence over information production, dissemination, access, and consumption.”



# Critical Library Instruction In Practice

# Teaching Content

- Classification
  - Search Examples
  - Academic Conventions and Access
  - Corporate Media
  - Alternative Media
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## Teaching Methods

- Discussion and Dialogue
  - Group Work
  - Skip the Database Demo
  - Reflection
  - Problem-Posing
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What does critical reference and instruction practice look like in a remote environment?

What does critical reference and instruction practice look like ~~in a remote environment~~ when structured by corporate technologies?

What does critical reference and instruction practice look like ~~in a remote environment when structured by corporate technologies~~ while a pandemic is highlighting and exacerbating societal injustices?

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world.

And you have to do it all the time.”

- Angela Y. Davis

Lecture at Southern Illinois University, Feb. 13, 2014



# Questions and thoughts?

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